THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Erosion of river bed/banks is a natural phenomenon; which occurs in all alluvial rivers including river Yamuna. However, there is no report on land erosion by river yamuna during last three years.

Flood management including erosion control falls within the purview of the State Governments. Government of Delhi has not proposed any scheme to check land erosion caused by river Yamuna for financial assistance to the Union Government, in last three years.

Fund for major/medium irrigation projects

3844. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

whether Water Resource Finance Corporation Ltd. has been incorporated under Companies Act of 1956 in March with an initial paid up capital of Rs. 100 crores contributed by the Central Government;

whether through this Corporation the Centre intends to mobilize large resources that will be required to fund major and medium irrigation projects;

whether States like Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat have taken up construction of large scale irrigation projects;

whether this is in accordance with the anouncement made by the Finance Minister in his budget speech 2008-09 for long term financial assistance for irrigation water resources project; and

to what extent the schemes have been started and results accrued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) (e) Yes, Sir. The Irrigation and Water Resources Finance Corporation Ltd. (IWRFC) has been incorporated on 29.03.2008 with an initial paid up capital of Rs. 100 crores contributed by the Central Government, in accordance with the Finance Minister's Budget Announcement 2008-09. The Corporation is in the process of obtaining requisite permissions for commencement of business.

Pricing policy on ground water

3845. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

whether the management of water resources has become a crucial issue in India which faces enormous strain on natural resources on account of population explosion and improper planning and distribution, the Centre has decided to follow the Planning Commission's expert group report on ground water pricing policy;

if so, whether the Ministry has asked the Central Ground Water Development Board *to carry out a study over the pricing of ground water; and

if so, by when a final national policy is likely to be announced?